

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:-

1. A method of processing an image obtained by a slot scanning radiographic imaging apparatus in which a collimated beam of illuminating radiation is transmitted through a subject to a detector, the method comprising the step of correcting for degradation of the image caused by scattering of illuminating radiation by applying to the image a scatter mask.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the scatter mask is obtained by adaptation of a full field scatter mask.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of collimation of the illuminating radiation.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of the distance between the detector and the subject.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of the distance between the detector and the subject by assuming that the subject extends up to the detector.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of time delay integration in the detector.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of time delay integration in the detector by multiplying a full field scatter mask by a piecewise linear function.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the piecewise linear function is of sawtooth shape.

9. A method according to claim 6 wherein the scatter mask is adapted to allow for the effect on scatter of time delay integration in the detector by forming it from a sum of elemental scatter masks which are adapted from a conventional scatter mask.
- 5
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the elemental scatter masks are adapted from a conventional scatter mask by setting values of the conventional scatter mask to zero outside the area of illumination.
- 10
11. A method according to claim 6 wherein in adapting the scatter mask to allow for the effect on scatter of time delay integration in the detector, the energy imparted to each pixel is assumed to be the same at each detector position for that pixel.
- 15
12. An image processing apparatus for processing an image obtained by a slot scanning radiographic imaging apparatus in which a collimated beam of illuminating radiation is transmitted through a subject to a detector, the apparatus correcting for degradation of the image caused by scattering of illuminating radiation by applying to the image a scatter mask.
- 20
13. A slot scanning radiographic imaging apparatus comprising an image processing apparatus according to claim 12.
- 25
14. A computer readable storage medium carrying a computer program comprising program code means for executing on a programmed computer system the method of claim 1.